

Chairman's Statement in Gratitude for Executive Actions Protecting Preborn Children

USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

January 27, 2026

The USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities is grateful for multiple steps taken by the Administration late last week to protect preborn children.

As Pope Leo recently reminded us, public resources should never be “allocated to suppress life, rather than being invested to support mothers and families. The primary objective must remain the protection of every unborn child and the effective and concrete support of every woman so that she is able to welcome life.” In this vein, it is a victory that on Friday, the U.S. Department of State provided welcome new pro-life protections for foreign assistance spending. God entrusts us with a responsibility to share our blessings to help preserve the lives and dignity of our brothers and sisters in need, which is also why taxpayer dollars have no business funding organizations that target vulnerable populations with abortion. The Mexico City Policy helps protect taxpayers from funding foreign organizations that perform or promote abortion overseas. Pro-lifers can celebrate the fulfillment of a promise by the Trump Administration to once again expand this policy, building upon life-saving improvements made during its first term. We also reiterate the importance of authentic, life-saving, humanitarian assistance to poor and vulnerable people abroad.

With regard to the Administration's announcement last Thursday that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will stop performing and funding research using aborted human fetal tissue, we rejoice that tax dollars will no longer be used for

this unethical research that treats babies killed by abortion as commodities to be harvested. The bodies of innocent abortion victims deserve the same respect afforded to every other human body. Researchers have shown that we do not need to scavenge from the bodies of aborted babies to conduct successful research and develop effective treatments.

Further, we appreciate actions taken by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights on Wednesday to enhance interpretations and pursue enforcement of important health care conscience protection laws. No one should be forced to facilitate the taking of innocent life.

As we applaud these actions protecting preborn children, we renew our commitment to dialogue with and pray for the Administration as we seek to advocate for all human life from conception until natural death.

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops